

EDITORIAL

when I did all in my power to get facts to give the people. I was attending to my business. Getting facts is my business.

I told Mr. Buckman that I would make the same request for information every time I saw him.

I told him that I would knock on that CLOSED DOOR every time it stood between the public and the acts of the committee paid out of the public treasury to bring out the truth.

Mr. Buckman said that that would also be discourteous. I do not agree with him, and I know that I have learned manners from as good a teacher as Mr. Buckman had.

I tried to reason with Mr. Buckman. I told him that this was not a personal matter at all, and that I hoped he would not so regard it.

It is not a personal matter. I have a high regard for all the members of this committee, and a woven friendship with most of them.

IT IS PUBLIC BUSINESS. The public wants to know all about this matter. It is my duty as a newspaper man to give it to them.

I have said in this editorial that the "closed door" would subject the committee to suspicion.

I repeat it. It will cause the flotation of all kinds of rumors.

For example—Suppose somebody who was denied admission to the sessions of the committee should start the rumor that the committee had offered employment to an attorney who is counsel of record for a railroad which has a suit against the Trustees?

This would have a bad effect, and no one could deny the rumor, with authority, because no one could get behind that closed door to find out the truth about this matter of offering employment to lawyers.

The closed door will hamper the work of the committee. This was demonstrated when the committee's request for authority to employ attorneys was denied by the House.

If the committee had given the names of the attorneys to be employed the request would undoubtedly have been granted.

The closed door will lead to evil. This was demonstrated when the expert accountant was forced to deny his engagement or any knowledge that an investigation was going on (when asked by a SUN representative) even when he was on his way to the State House to begin work.

The people are entitled to know why this New York man was employed, who suggested him, and how the knowledge of him was gained.

The people are entitled to know who suggested employing counsel, what names were discussed and what each man said.

In short—THE PEOPLE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS MATTER ALL THE TIME.

Mr. McKenzie of Putnam has introduced in the House a concurrent resolution instructing the committee to OPEN THE DOOR.

This comes up for consideration to-day. It should pass.

Mr. McKenzie has done the right thing at the right time.

AUTOCRATIC POWER PROPOSED

THE SUN will discuss the bill of Dr. Porter, introduced by Senator West of the Fourth, and known as Senate Bill No. 20, in to-morrow's issue.

SUNlight will be thrown on the unlimited autocratic power to be given the State Board of Health if this bill becomes a law.

BY THE WAY.

J. Van Holt Nash, co-manager of the American Book Company, of Atlanta, is in Tallahassee.

He and his brother, Stafford Nash, direct the affairs of the American Book Company from the Atlanta office and take side trips into the field when occasion demands.

One of the brothers Nash was in Tallahassee last week, and also was one McKee, another of the American Book Company representatives. It is understood that they came down to keep Mr. A. Iverson Branham company, not so much that he needed company as SUPPORT, for the case is getting desperate in Florida for the American Book Company.

If I am any judge, the American Book Company will not be able to pass the Humphries bill even with the indorsement of the school superintendents. The fact of the matter is that several of the school superintendents were practically convinced before leaving Tallahassee, that after having visited the People's Lobby and seen there the demonstration of how the people of Florida are being milked by the American Book Company they were in favor of uniformity. The fact that the superintendents did not know this before may be due to their trustfulness in the agents of the American Book Company. The members of the House and Senate who have looked at this display of books have been convinced, and from this basis I predict that a sufficient number have already been convinced to insure the passage of the Crane bill, provided they do not fall victims to the wiles of the wily Branham and his associates. Branham, Old Ramesses, remains on the spot and watches.

Seated on the veranda of the Leon Hotel he possesses the air of a penitent pondering over past deeds. Perhaps it will be hard for the agent of the American Book Company to explain to the people of Georgia that unfortunate remark before the convention of Florida school superintendents that his company did not want to be forced to furnish Florida with the flimsy books that they were giving Georgia. He will be called to account for this, and hence it is time for him to wear penitential ashes. In refutation of Mr. Branham's statement before the convention of school superintendents, I reproduce here a letter from the State School Superintendent of Georgia. He says:

"I favor State uniformity of textbooks for the reason

given in the inclosed letter. This letter was given the press in response to inquiries from members of our General Assembly.

"State uniformity of textbooks has proven very satisfactory to the people of Georgia.

"The books are bought very much cheaper, as you will see from the inclosed price list.

"It has enabled us to grade the schools very much better all over the State.

"The books now being used in Georgia ARE OF GOOD QUALITY."

The same is signed by W. B. Merritt, State School Commissioner of Georgia.

The American Book Company has had four representatives—high priced men—in Florida during the past three weeks.

It will be interesting to observe the stand taken on these measures by members of the Florida Legislature, when at the argument of honesty and economics is on one side, and there is no argument except that of perpetual monopoly on the other.

There are good Senators and true as well as members of the House who have looked into this subject for themselves, and none of them has yet failed to be impressed that uniform textbooks for the State is needed and must come.

The army of the State of Florida was well represented at the capital yesterday. There was a meeting of the Camp Site Commission, composed of Senator Massey, Senator Girardeau, General Lovell, Speaker Matthews of the House, and Adjutant General Foster. It has been practically decided to locate the camp at Philbrofen, near Jacksonville. The matter has not been decided, and will not be until the Jacksonville Board of Trade has had an opportunity to "heartily indorse" the movement.

Nothing could, would or should be done without that. It would be lese majeste of the army or the City or the Queen's Navee to do anything until the Jacksonville Board of Trade did most "heartily indorse" the movement. But the Camp Site Commissioners want something more right now than hearty indorsements.

The Commission thinks that Jacksonville should give the site for the camp ground, and that city could well afford to do the same, for it would be of great advantage to Jacksonville to have the permanent camp site there. Pending the action of the Jacksonville Board of Trade there is nothing doing in the camp site line.

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